

Vladyslava Moskalets

Jewish industrial elites in Drohobych and Boryslav, 1860-1900

Streszczenie pracy doktorskiej napisanej pod kierunkiem
Dr.hab. Michał Galasa i prof. Yaroslava Hrytsaka

18.07.2017

j. angielski

Oil and ozokerite industry in Drohobych and Boryslav involved distinctive number of Jewish participants in the first stages of the development. Its case allows the researcher to trace the activity of Jewish entrepreneurs, connections between them, social stratification in Jewish community, and rise of the awareness of their distinct economic role. These questions, considered in broader context of economic history of the Jews are the main focus of the thesis. Understanding social and cultural processes, which took place in Drohobych and Boryslav allows me to rethink the role of the Jewishness in Galician economy. Previous researches of Galician oil industry did not pay enough attention to the special role of the Jews in the industry. Studies on Galician Jewry rarely concerned their social and economic life.

The key aim of the dissertation is to find a way in which industrialization helped to establish new Jewish economic elites and how these elites perceived their new role. The author also analyzes social stratification of the Jews in industrial city and how participation in the industry influenced relations in the Jewish community.

The dissertation is divided into three chapters. The first chapter overviews possibilities of participation of the Jews in different spheres of oil industry, the most active phase of it and the crisis of Jewish involvement. Special attention is given to the internal divisions in the business and impact of these divisions on the relations in the community. The second chapter deals with the rise of the connection network among entrepreneurs and the role of family kinship in business. The third chapter is dedicated to cultural and social activity of Jewish entrepreneurs and their perception of the new economic role.

The research main conclusion is that the process of formation of the elites was a long lasting process which required prior capital accumulation and high social position, ability to sustain long-term business relations and inclusion in the social life of the community. Jewish elites appreciated local role of the industry and tried to maintain their status. They were not, however, interested active participation in the modernization process and thus further improvement of their status. Despite new possibilities, provided by financial wealth, Jewish entrepreneurs remained active members of Jewish community and acculturation process did not affect strongly their first generation.

Moskalets
Vladyslava